

# Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast  
Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Mervyn Jones (Chair)	Mr Andrew Moorhead
Councillor Adam Newton	Mr Gareth Beacom
Alderman Gavin Robinson	Mr Mark Houston
	Mrs Olwen Lyner
<b>Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives</b>	
Chief Inspector David Moore	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Niall O'Donnaghaile Mrs Lynda Gibson

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted apologies.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were noted.

### 3. East Belfast Policing Committee Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

### 4. Policing Committee Applications

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding details of applications received in respect of funding through the Policing Committee.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Members that two applications had been received from the following groups for the sums indicated:
  - B District Crime Prevention Officer - £998.50; and,
  - Young Men's Junior L.O.L - £435.00.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the applications.
- iv. Members agreed to fund the requested amount and support both applications.
- v. A Member asked for clarification to be provided regarding Members discussion concerning their declaration of interest.

- vi. A Member commented that he had been a member of the Superior Lodge affiliated to the Young Men's Junior L.O.L. However, he further confirmed that there was no financial interest with the group.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that initially there had been a relationship declared in relation to a link with the group, however as no financial link had been declared, there had not been no actual conflict of interest to be noted.
- viii. The Chair stated that he was satisfied that there was no conflict of interest on this occasion.

## **5. NI Policing Plan Update Consultation**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note that a consultation process had begun regarding the 2015/16 refresh to the 2014/17 Policing Plan.
- ii. He informed Members that all responses in relation to the consultation process should be forwarded for inclusion by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- iii. Members noted the consultation process and response date.

## **6. Area Commanders Update**

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on crime statistics for East Belfast.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that from 01 April up to the 24 August, there had been an increase of 232 crimes and an additional 32 offences reported.
- iii. He further commented that violence without injury had decreased by 23 crimes, robbery had increased by one and burglary had increased by four.
- iv. The Area Commander advised Members that all types of crime had been sporadic and that there had been no hot spots identified in East Belfast.
- v. He further commented that criminal damage crime had decreased by 13, damage to vehicles had been down and bicycle theft had increased.
- vi. A Member asked if there had been any evidence to suggest that bicycle theft had been the responsibility of an organised group? The Area Commander commented that there had been no evidence to suggest that and bicycle theft had been an issue within B District for the last few years.
- vii. The Chair advised Members that a question had been submitted by a member of the public regarding a firearm at a recent robbery. He further commented that the member of the public had concerns that there had been very few arrests following the increase in the number of robberies in East Belfast.
- viii. The Area Commander commented that he could not provide any further details. He advised Members that he had been aware of issues around CCTV and that an arrest had been made recently. He informed Members that he would review the situation to establish if any links with other robberies had been identified and would provide and update at the next DPCSP meeting. He also commented that he would forward a reply directly to the member of the public.

- ix. In response to a number of questions submitted by a member of the public the Chair asked what had been the PSNI's follow up to an armed robbery? The Area Commander commented that there had been no formal procedures in relation to this but would expect all follow ups to be conducted by the Neighbourhood Police Team.
- x. A Member stated that the local community had raised concerns regarding the whereabouts of PSNI officers when protests had been occurring.
- xi. Following a discussion, the Area Commander informed Members that he would provide and update regarding PSNI whereabouts when protests are happening.
- xii. The Area Commander advised Members that since 15 April, over 50 arrests had been made following interface disturbances and to date public order offences had increased by 13.
- xiii. A Member asked for a breakdown to be provided in relation to juvenile and adults regarding the aforementioned arrests. The Area Commander commented that he would provide this information at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xiv. A Member asked in relation to robberies, did this include fire arms? The Area Commander advised Members that this information would be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xv. A Member commented that the total number of public order offences reported this year had been very low in comparison to last year. He further asked if there had been any reason for a lower level of public order disturbances this year. The Area Commander commented that last year there had been different periods of public order. He advised Members that the figure included incidents at the Odyssey.
- xvi. Members requested for a copy of the PSNI statistics to be circulated for information.
- xvii. The Area Commander advised Members that since April hate crime had increased by 36 incidents. He informed Members that there had been 10 arrests regarding race/hate crime incidents. He further advised Members that homophobic crime had increased by six incidents.
- xviii. The Chair asked if the aforementioned race/hate crimes had been organised? The Area Commander commented that the PSNI did not suspect it had been organised crime but more than likely neighbour disputes.
- xix. A Member commented that the local community did not agree with this view, as they believe that race/hate crime is organised and had direct links to paramilitary.
- xx. A Member commented that there had been a need to do work around myth busting. Subsequently, following a discussion, Members agreed to review ongoing issues and to develop a way of tackling myth busting.
- xxi. The Chair thanked Chief Inspector David Moore for his attendance and for the update.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted the date of the next East DPCSP Meeting as Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room.